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OO RUEHDBU RUEHLN RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHEK #1311 2560238  
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FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8135  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 1708  
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE IMMEDIATE 1187  
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE IMMEDIATE 2122  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1505  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP IMMEDIATE

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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN AND SCA/PPD

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SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF 9/11 EVENTS

REF: BISHKEK 1303

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¶1. (U) Local press provided wide coverage of the ceremony at Manas Air Base commemorating the 5th anniversary of the September 11 attacks (see reftel). Because of the participation of President Bakiyev, Prime Minister Kulov, Speaker of Parliament Sulanov, and Azreti Mufti Jumanov coverage of the event was particularly strong in government controlled media. KTR Channel 1 - the only national channel - KOORT, NTS, and NBT all dedicated portions of their evening news hour to the event. These channels together give potential coverage throughout the entire country. In the newspapers, government-oriented Slovo Kyrgyzstan, state-owned Kyrgyz Tuusu, and pro-government MSN printed articles describing the base ceremony. The total circulation of these three papers is approximately 27,000. Wire services AKIpress and 24.kg also printed articles on the ceremony. Most other papers only print weekly, and will only be out later in the week.

¶2. (SBU) All the media outlets confined themselves to describing the ceremony, reprinting portions of the Ambassador,s and President,s remarks, describing the base tour by the President, and briefly covering the President,s impromptu press conference at the end of his tour. The ceremony was either the first piece in the news broadcast or on the first page of papers with pictures. None of the outlets made any editorial comments on the ceremony or slanted their coverage in an anti-American way. This is especially noteworthy since some outlets, 24.kg being the primary example, look for any excuse to add an anti-U.S. twist to their reporting.

¶3. (U) Some of the independent television stations also covered the 9/11 event featuring the visiting Citizens Dialogue Tour group, consisting of a Muslim student and professional, both women, visiting Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan, and engaging with students and other members of civil society. This group spoke to a standing room only group of women students and scholars at the Islamic University. Press coverage of these two events provided a very rich and broad

picture of the solemn commemoration of 9/11 plus our attempts  
at strengthening bilateral ties with Kyrgyzstan and reaching  
out to the grassroots.

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